

PALMYRA ATOLL 1993



NØAFW/KH5

ICOM®



**HAM
RADIO
OUTLET**



**FLANDERS
DX CLUB**



KINGMAN REEF • PALMYRA ATOLL 1993 DX-PEDITION TEAM

(L to R, front to back)

NH6UY-Pat, G3KHZ-Derek,
HB9AHL-Willy, GØLMX/F1MBO-Vincent
N9NS-Mike, HB9AEE-Freddy;
OZ1LGF-Jesper, VE5RA-Doug, PA3DZN-Alex,
PAØERA-Enno, W7KNT-John, and NØAFW-Pete.

AM-2021 6-93 (Palmyra)

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Radio	March 1993	GMT	Band	Mode - 2-WAY	RPT
	RADIO	W1WW		SSB	
	DATE	15 March 1993	AT 1422Z	CW	59
	MODE	2 WAY CW	RPT 599	RTTY	599
	BAND	20		OSCAR 13	
				MODE B	

Kingman Reef, located about 1000 miles south of Honolulu, Hawaii, is a V-shaped coral atoll-like reef and shoal, measuring approximately 6 miles on each of 2 legs and enclosing a triangularly shaped lagoon. An area measuring about 1000 feet long and 10-20 feet in width on the northwest-southeast leg rises out of the water a mere 6 feet to provide the only satisfactory operating site.

Palmyra Atoll, lying about 35 miles to the southeast of Kingman Reef, consists of about 50 densely vegetated small coral and sand islets shaped in a horseshoe surrounding 3 lagoons. The atoll was occupied by the U.S. Navy during WWII and, as such, has many buildings present as well as a rain water catch system, antenna towers, a 6000' airstrip, a sea-plane ramp and numerous docking facilities, all in various states of disrepair.

On February 27, 1993, the twelve expedition team members met in Honolulu, Hawaii. Two problems faced the group upon their arrival. The 6 generators promised the group earlier in the year were sent to Kauai to assist people stranded by Hurricane Iniki. Prior to their return to Honolulu, they were stolen from the docks 2 weeks before the arrival of the operators. Additionally, the chartered vessel, *Machias*, was delayed 2-1/2 weeks by problems associated with the AH1A (Baker-Howland) DX-Pedition one month earlier. Over the next several days, the DX-Pedition plans changed hourly due to the unavailability of replacement vessels. A team vote was taken and the entire group decided to push all personal comfort and finances to the limit and attempt to activate the two rare locations even though the original operating goal of 8 days could not be realized.

By March 4th, four generators were located and two replacement vessels were being loaded for the trip. That evening, the 45 foot *Kama Hele* left Honolulu with 6 of the 12 operators: Pete-NØAFW, Mike-N9NS, Jesper-OZ1LGF,

Alex-PA3DZN, Enno-PAØERA and Doug-VE5RA. The remaining 6 operators, John-W7KNT, Vincent-GØLMX/F1MBO, Pat-NH6UY, Willy-HB9AHL, Freddy-HB9AEE and Derek-G3KHZ, were to follow the next morning in the 50-foot *Gershon II*. However, at this time the *Machias* arrived in port and the second group decided to wait while it underwent significant repairs and outfitting, thus delaying their departure one full week.

The *Kama Hele* reached Kingman Reef on March 10th. After enduring tremendous rain squalls and high temperatures, enough equipment had been landed to begin operations. Over the next four days, four 1 kW stations made 24,000 QSO's while the six operators endured 100°+ temperatures, high seas, high winds, tremendous rain squalls and leaky tents.

The *Machias* sailed directly for Palmyra, reaching the atoll on March 12th. Two stations were set up and two operators (G3KHZ and GØLMX) remained behind (making 9,000 QSO's during a four day period) while the *Machias* sailed for Kingman to relieve the first group, arriving March 14th.

In order to meet all airline schedules, the Kingman Reef operations had to end on March 15th. By noon, the *Machias* was sailing back to Palmyra to end operations there on March 16th. Four operators whom had earlier flights left directly from Kingman Reef for Honolulu aboard the *Kama Hele*. The team operators arrived back in Honolulu during the week of March 22nd after enduring rough winds and seas for 8 days.

We would like to thank the following for their support prior to the expedition: ICOM America, Inc., NCDXF, Oklahoma Comm Center, Southern California DX Club, National Wire and Cable Co., ICE Corporation, Hoosier Contesters, Cushcraft Corporation, Danish DX Group, Flanders DX Group, Clipperton DX Club, Nagara Antennas, 256 DX Group, Chiltern DX Club, EUDXF, IRDXA, AH9B, K8JP, N6RJ, DL1SDN, WT8S, KD6AYV, WB6UDI, W1PNR, WA6PJR, W6PQS, K9AJ, and WØRLX.

We would also like to thank Jay-WA2FIJ and Charlie-N7QQ whose financial, physical and emotional advice and assistance helped to conceive the idea of this expedition and enabled this operation to proceed successfully.

Our thanks also go to Ken-KH6HH, Kimo-KH6IFN and Pat-KH6DD without whose considerable assistance, this expedition would not have been possible.

CONFIRMED BY: **WA2FIJ**
JAY KOBELIN

The twelve operators were: NØAFW-Pete, N9NS-Mike, GØLMX/F1MBO-Vincent, W7KNT-John, NH6UY-Pat, OZ1LGF-Jesper, PA3DZN-Alex, PAØERA-Enno, HB9AHL-Willy, HB9AEE-Freddy, VE5RA-Doug and G3KHZ-Derek.

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